

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue and has resulted in the closing of all horse processing facilities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation was introduced to amend the 1970 Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling or donation of horses and other equines for processing and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the loss of secondary markets has severely impacted the livestock industry by eliminating the salvage value of horses and has significantly reduced the market value of all horses; and

WHEREAS, prohibitions regarding the processing of horses have resulted in significant increases in abandoned and starving animals and have had significant economic impact on the entire equine industry; and

WHEREAS, the increase in unwanted or unusable horses has overwhelmed private animal welfare agencies and the public's ability to care for surplus domestic horses; and

WHEREAS, the annual number of unwanted or unusable surplus domestic horses is estimated to be one hundred thousand (100,000), compounding annually; and

WHEREAS, issues related to the humane handling and slaughter of surplus domestic horses are best addressed by proper regulations and inspection and not by banning or exporting the issue; and

WHEREAS, state agriculture and rural leaders recognize the necessity and benefit of a state's ability to direct the transport and processing of horses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that Congress is urged to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.